

Claim Objections

As required by the Examiner, the misnumbered claims 68-79 have been renumbered 76-87.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the claims now correctly renumbered 76-87.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 54, 59, 64, and 76-87 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Burke et al. (US 5,645,469).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner. Applicants have amended claims 54, 59, and 64.

Claim 54, as amended, discloses an embodiment of Applicants' claimed invention in which a polish pad includes: a first set of grooves located in a first area, the first set of grooves having a first depth; and a second set of grooves located in a second area, the second set of grooves having a second depth, wherein the first set of grooves does not intersect the second set of grooves and wherein the first depth is smaller than the second depth to reduce polish rate in the first area. See pages 12-13 of the specification. See Figures 5A, 5B, 6, and 7.

Claim 59, as amended, discloses an embodiment of Applicants' claimed invention in which a polish pad includes: a first set of grooves located in a first area, the first set of grooves having a first width; and a second set of grooves located in a second area, the second set of grooves having a second width, wherein the first set of grooves does not intersect the second set of grooves and wherein the first width is smaller than the second width to reduce polish rate in the first area. See pages 12-13 of the specification. See Figures 5A, 5B, 6, and 7.

Claim 64, as amended, discloses an embodiment of Applicants' claimed invention in which a polish pad includes: a first set of grooves located in a first area, the first set of grooves having a first density; and a second set of grooves located in a second area, the second set of grooves having a second density, wherein the first set of grooves does not intersect the second set of grooves and wherein the first density is smaller than the second density to reduce polish rate in the first area. See page 13 of the specification. See Figure 7.

In contrast, the cited reference of Burke et al. teaches a polish pad (10) with a polishing surface (12) having radially-extending, tapered channels (20) arranged in a "sunburst" pattern which intersect circumferential grooves (26). See Figures 1-2. Also, see Col. 4, lines 42-44 and 56-58.

The cited reference of Burke et al. also teaches another polish pad (30) with a polishing surface (32) having radially-extending, tapered channels (40) arranged in a "starfish" pattern which intersect circumferential grooves (46). See Figures 3-4. Also, see Col. 5, lines 24-26 and 39-42.

Thus, the Burke et al. reference cited by the Examiner fails to teach that the grooves that differ in depth, width, and density should not intersect. Since the Burke et al. reference cited by the Examiner does not teach each and every element of Applicants' claimed invention as claimed in claims 54, 59, and 64, as amended, the cited reference of Burke et al. does not anticipate claims 54, 59, and 64 , as amended, of Applicants' claimed invention.

Claims 76-79 are dependent on claim 54. Thus, the Burke et al. reference cited by the Examiner also does not teach each and every element of Applicants' claimed invention as claimed in claims 76-79 and, consequently, the cited reference of Burke et al. does not anticipate claims 76-79 of Applicants' claimed invention.

Claims 80-83 are dependent on claim 59. Thus, the Burke et al. reference cited by the Examiner also does not teach each and every element of Applicants' claimed invention as claimed in claims 80-83 and, consequently, the cited reference of Burke et al. does not anticipate claims 80-83 of Applicants' claimed invention.

Claims 84-87 are dependent on claim 64. Thus, the Burke et al. reference cited by the Examiner also does not teach each and every element of Applicants' claimed invention as claimed in claims 84-87 and, consequently, the cited reference of Burke et al. does not anticipate claims 84-87 of Applicants' claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections to claims 54, 59, 64, as amended, and claims 76-87 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b).

Conclusion

Applicants believe that all pending claims, including amended claims 54, 59, 64 and renumbered claims 76-87, are now in condition for allowance so such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Should there be any additional charge or fee, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Dated: May 21, 2004


George Chen
Reg. No. 50,807

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300